

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 232635

STADIS////////////////////////////////////

LIMDIS TOSEC 21

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 232635 (STADIS LIMDIS) ACTION NEW DELHI

INFO BOMBAY CALUTTA MADRAS 22 OCT 74

QUOTE C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 232635

STADIS

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CVIS, PFOR, IN, US

SUBJECT: MEDICAL BRAIN DRAIN

REF: (A) NEW DELHI 12191; (B) NEW DELHI 13215

FOR AMBASSADOR FROM ADMINISTRATOR, SCA

1. I CERTAINLY AGREE THAT THE BRAIN DRAIN PROBLEM IN
INDIA AS IT RELATES TO DOCTORS HAS REACHED DISTURBING PRO-
PORTIONS AND SHARE YOUR FEELING WE SHOULD TRY TO ASSIST IN
ANY WAY WE CAN. I SAY "ASSIST" BECAUSE IT SEEMS TO ME THAT
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IN THE FIRST INSTANCE INDIA MUST THINK ABOUT HELPING

ITSELF. IT CAN, IF IT WISHES, ESTABLISH VERY TIGHT CONTROL OVER THE EMIGRATION OF INDIA-TRAINED DOCTORS. THE MOST WE CAN HOPE TO DO IS TO TRY TO MAKE THEIR IMMIGRATION A LITTLE LESS EASY.

2. UNFORTUNATELY, AS YOU SUGGEST, WE HAVEN'T TOO MUCH ROOM FOR MANEUVER. IT IS DIFFICULT FOR US TO CHAMPION MAXIMUM FREEDOM OF MOVEMENT FOR ALL PEOPLE AND THEN TO TURN AROUND AND PROPOSE A "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" TO SHARPLY LIMIT THE MOVEMENT OF SOME PEOPLE, NO MATTER HOW WORTHY THE MOTIVE. IT WOULD GIVE THE RUSSIANS PRETTY GOOD AMMUNITION IN DEFENSE OF THEIR RESTRICTIVE POLICIES IF IT EVER BECAME

KNOWN. SO I DON'T BELIEVE THAT THE "GENTLEMAN'S AGREEMENT" IS AN IDEA WE SHOULD PURSUE.

3. UNDER THE IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT WE TECHNICALLY HAVE THE POSSIBILITY OF BANNING CERTAIN CLASSES OF FOREIGNERS UNILATERALLY IN THE NATIONAL INTEREST BY PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION. TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THE AUTHORITY HAS NEVER BEEN INVOKED AND I AM SURE YOU WILL AGREE THAT SUCH DRASTIC MEASURES ARE NOT THE ANSWER TO THE PRESENT PROBLEM.

4. A MORE HOPEFUL AREA FOR A COOPERATIVE EFFORT BY US IS TOUCHED ON IN DELHI'S 13215. AS YOU KNOW, CONGRESS HAS RECENTLY SHOWN GROWING INTEREST IN WHAT SOME BELIEVE TO BE AN EXCESSIVE RELIANCE IN THIS COUNTRY ON FOREIGN MEDICAL GRADUATES (FMG'S) TO MEET OUR NEED FOR DOCTORS. WHILE CONGRESS' PRIMARY CONCERN IS OVER THE QUALIFICATION OF FMG'S, IT HAS ALSO SPECIFICALLY NOTED THAT THIS SITUATION DIRECTLY CONTRIBUTES TO THE BRAIN DRAIN. LEGISLATION ESTABLISHING NEW AND STRICTER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCEDURES FOR ALIENS SEEKING TO QUALIFY TO IMMIGRATE ON THE BASIS OF MEDICAL QUALIFICATIONS HAS PASSED THE SENATE BUT MAY NOT PASS THE HOUSE THIS YEAR. PROSPECTS FOR THE BILL NEXT YEAR SEEM MUCH BRIGHTER. THIS LEGISLATION WILL BE VERY HELPFUL IF IT GOES THROUGH.

5. WE COULD EXPLORE MODIFICATION OF CFMG PROCEDURES AND STANDARDS OF THE TYPE SUGGESTED IN DELHI'S 13215 BUT I
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THINK AT A MINIMUM WE SHOULD DEFER THAT UNTIL WE SEE WHAT HAPPENS TO THE PROPOSED NEW LEGISLATION. THE CFMG IS NOT ALWAYS EASY TO INFLUENCE. IT HAS BEEN MY OBSERVATION THAT THE U.S. MEDICAL COMMUNITY IS DIVIDED ON THE POSTURE IT SHOULD ADOPT ON FMG'S AND OFTEN FINDS ITSELF IN ANOMALOUS AND CONTRADICTORY POSITIONS ON THIS ISSUE.

6. WE HAVE TRIED TO CHECK OUT THE EXTENT TO WHICH THE

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA ISSUES "NO OBJECTION" CERTIFICATES TO INDIAN PHYSICIANS SEEKING INS WAIVERS. IN FY 1974 THE DEPARTMENT (CU) HANDLED 42 SUCH CASES FOR INDIANS, OUT OF A TOTAL FOR ALL NATIONALITIES OF 215. THUS, INDIA HAS A HIGH PROPORTION OF THE WORLD-WIDE TOTAL, ALTHOUGH ABSOLUTE NUMBERS ARE SMALL. WHAT WE DON'T KNOW, OF COURSE, IS HOW MANY APPLIED TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA AND WERE REFUSED. ONLY THE INDIANS KNOW THAT.

7. SKILL CODES 4400 - GENERAL MEDICINE AND 4410 - INTERNSHIP ARE NOT USED FOR ANY INDIAN MEDICAL INTERNS OR RESIDENTS. EVERY MEDICAL GRADUATE FROM INDIA COMING TO

THE UNITED STATES UNDER AN EXCHANGE VISITOR PROGRAM TO PURSUE INTERNSHIP OR RESIDENCY TRAINING IS SUBJECT TO THE REQUIREMENT TO RETURN TO INDIA FOR TWO YEARS RESIDENCE AFTER TRAINING IN THE U.S.

8. IN SUMMARY, THEN, I AM INCLINED TO FEEL THAT OUR BEST CHANCE TO MAKE A CONTRIBUTION IN HELPING TO FIGHT THE BRAIN DRAIN CAN BE MADE BY SUPPORTING PENDING LEGISLATION WHICH ESTABLISHES SUBSTANTIALLY TOUGHER HURDLES THAN THOSE AT PRESENT. THAT WE CAN AND WILL DO. SIMILARLY IT MAY DEVELOP THAT DISCUSSIONS WITH CFMG WILL BE USEFUL, BUT A DECISION ON THIS SHOULD BE POSTPONED UNTIL WE KNOW WHAT SORT OF NEW LEGISLATION WE WILL HAVE, IF ANY. I HOPE WE MAY FIND OTHER WAYS AND WE WILL BE LOOKING FOR THEM. I MUST REITERATE THOUGH THAT IN THE LAST ANALYSIS IT IS THE INDIANS WHO MUST HELP THEMSELVES IF THE PROBLEM IS REALLY GOING TO BE RESOLVED.

9. I HAVE GIVEN BRUCE LAINGEN A MORE DETAILED PAPER ON SOME OF THE POINTS DISCUSSED ABOVE WHICH HE WILL BE BRING-
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ING WITH HIM. I LOOK FORWARD TO YOUR COMMENTS. KISSINGER
UNQUOTE INGERSOLL

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